service providers as it is cost effective, convenient and can be installed without digging or laying of cables;

(d) if so, Government's plan in this regard, and

(e) the views of Aministrator, USO fund in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEELAHMAD): (a) and (b) The Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Act, 2003 has already been amended and as per the Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Rules, 2004, all Basic Service Operators, Cellular Mobile Service providers and Unified Access Services Licensees or any other entities as may be specified in this behalf by the Central Government from time to time are eligible for selection of Universal Service Provider (USP) for the purpose of subsidy support from USO Fund.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. Agreements have been signed with six Private Service Providers for providing subsidy towards operation and maintenance of Village Public Telephones (VPTs) installed by them. From 2002-03 to 2004-05, BSNL and the Private Service Providers have been disbursed Rs. 1805.94 crore and Rs. 8.64 crore respectively from the USO Fund. Further, BSNL has entered into an agreement with USOF for providing rural household DELs in 1267 specified SDCAs upto 30th September, 2005 on WLL fixed line DELs or land line fixed DELs.

(e) USO Fund was set up to provide access to basic telegraph services to people in rural and remote areas. The subsidy support is being provided to private for operation, maintenance and for replacement of Multi Access Radio Relay (MARR) VPTs. Agreements have been signed with BSNL and other private operators for providing VPTs in the 66,822 remaining uncovered villages, Rural Community Phones (RCPs) and Individual Rural household Direct Exchange Lines (RDELs).

Revival of Indian Telephone Industries Limited, Bangalore

4516 SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Security and exchange Board of India (SEBI) has exempted Government from open offer for the ailing Indian Telephone Industries Ltd., Bangalore,

(b) if so, whether Government are likely to pump in Rs. 200 crore as a part of rescue package to revive the loss-making ITI; and

(c) the other salient features of the rehabilitation package for ITI as worked out by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir. Security and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)has exempted from open offer to enable Government of India to infuse Equity Capital of Rs. 200 crore at par in ITI.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Government of India had subscribed for Rs. 200 crore of Equity Capital as a part of rescue package to revive the loss-making ITI.

(c) Following Revival package has been sanctioned to M/s ITI:—

1.Released during 2004-05	**(Rs. in crores)**
(i) VRS reimbursement upto 2003-04	338.00
(ii) VRS expenditure 2004-05	120.00
(iii) Payment of PF dues	93.10
(iv) Capital Expenditure	50.00
(v) Equity Infusion	200.00
(vi) Waiver of interest/Penal Interest on GOI loan	23.67
2.To be released during 2005-06	
(i) VRS	100.00
(ii) Capital expenditure	100.00
TOTAL	1024.77

USO Act to allow wider use of funds

4517. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to incorporate changes in the Universal Service Obligaiton (USO) Act to allow wider use of funds;